

Wireless Infrastructure: Benefits and Barriers

Benefits

- Wireless is critical to ubiquitous, nationwide broadband.
- Wireless infrastructure is a powerful tool for the efficient use of scarce spectrum resources.
- Wireless is a major economic driver and invaluable to Public Safety.

Barriers

- Local zoning authorities unreasonably delay, deny and burden the deployment of infrastructure necessary for wireless services, including additional equipment on existing facilities.
- Many jurisdictions subject applications for collocation and modifications to the same costly and time-consuming process required for new builds.
- Wholesale exclusion of areas (often residential) from wireless facility siting is an effective prohibition on service.

Solutions

Given the Commission's desire to achieve ubiquitous broadband deployment and have the most advanced wireless networks of any nation, it should take three actions to reduce barriers to infrastructure deployment:

- Streamline the process for collocations – “Collocation by Right”
- Define modification under the Telecommunications Act – “Modification by Right”
- Preempt local regulations that prohibit wireless facility in any zoning district